

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application.

A restriction requirement has been imposed among the following inventions: Group I (claims 1-11) and Group II (claims 12-24).

Applicant's Response

Applicant hereby elects Group I, with traverse, for initial examination in this application, corresponding to claims 1-11.

Applicant submits that it is well established that:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, **even though it includes claims to independent and distinct inventions.** M.P.E.P. § 803

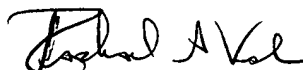
(emphasis added).

A proper search for art related to the elected Group would necessarily include the classes and subclasses relevant to a search for the non-elected Group. For example, claim 1 of Group I recites a plurality of vendor computers programmed to provide a website, a service provider computer at which a user has established a primary account and that permits the user to establish a sub-account, wherein purchases may be made using the sub-account. Claim 12 of Group II recites each vendor having a website, providing the user of a primary account an interface to a service provider computer wherein the user may establish a sub-account that may be used to make purchases. Thus, examination of all of the claims would not present a "serious burden" on the Examiner because a search of

the claims of Group I inherently includes a search of the claims of Group II. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the present restriction requirement be withdrawing.

An early and favorable action is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Raphael A. Valencia

Reg. No. 43,216

Attorney for Applicants

LUCE, FORWARD,
HAMILTON & SCRIPPS, LLP
11988 El Camino Real, Ste 200
San Diego, California 92130
Tel.: (858) 720-6300
Fax : (858) 720-6306

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